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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TSUNAMI ADVISORY UPDATE #5
***National Weather Service in Oxnard extends Tsunami Advisory for
Los Angeles County Beaches and Harbor Areas – 8 a.m.***

LOS ANGELES (Sat, March 12, 2011 – 6:30 a.m.) – The National Weather Service (NWS) in Oxnard announced it is extending the Tsunami Advisory until 8 a.m. as strong currents are still being experienced along the Los Angeles County beaches and harbor areas. The NWS will reassess the Tsunami Advisory status at 8 a.m. on Saturday. The original Tsunami Advisory was issued by the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) West Coast Alaska Warning Center located in Palmer, Alaska, for Los Angeles County coastal areas (8 a.m. to 7 p.m.) following the 8.9 magnitude earthquake that struck northern Japan on Fri., March 11.

An advisory means that a tsunami is capable of producing strong currents or waves dangerous to persons in or very near the water. Significant widespread inundation is not expected for areas under an advisory, but these strong currents could affect possibly local conditions, including swimming, coastal structures and small crafts.

Mariners are advised to use caution and monitor the National Weather Service (NWS) Tsunami Warning website along with news updates. Persons in the Tsunami Advisory coastal areas should move out of the water, stay off the beach and proceed to higher ground areas. Those in harbors and marinas should follow U.S. Coast Guard and Harbor Master recommendations.

The Los Angeles County Chief Executive Office, Office of Emergency Management (OEM) with support from the Department of Beaches and Harbors, Sheriff's Department, Fire Department and its Lifeguard Operations will continue to monitor the Los Angeles County beaches and harbor areas in coordination with the California Emergency Management Agency (Cal EMA) from now till over the weekend.

To find out more information on tsunamis and how to prepare for them, please visit www.espfocus.org or www.noaawatch.gov.

Residents and business owners, including persons with disabilities, access and functional needs may also call 211 LA County for emergency preparedness information and other referral services. The toll-free 2-1-1 number is available 24 hours a day and seven days a week. 211 LA County services can also be accessed by visiting <http://211la.org>.

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